

Report Online Consultation - A Stronger EU for the World

The Online Consultation – A Stronger EU for the World was implemented as part of the *EU for Global* project. The project, undertaken by a consortium of seven EU civil society organisations and one university, started with the overall objective to strengthen transnational democracy, in a world facing global challenges. The European Union has a pioneering experience with a unique set of participatory tools that include citizens and residents in decision-making. Only participatory strategies and the amplifying of underrepresented voices can democratise transnational governance and make it equipped to handle the biggest challenges of our time.

EU for Global seeks to build trust in transnational democracy by encouraging democratic participation of traditionally underrepresented groups. For the next two years, through Citizens Panels we will consult people living in the EU on their views on the role of the European Union in the world to co-design recommendations on EU policies towards global issues in at least eight different member states.

With the same objective, we conducted an Online Consultation in the span of three months to collect views and ideas from people living in the Union on its foreign policy competencies and its participatory mechanisms. The ultimate objective of the consultation was to evaluate:

1. How do EU citizens and residents view the role of the EU in the world?
2. Which democracy instruments do they see as available to them in the EU?
3. Which values do they associate with the EU?
4. How should the EU carry these values out into the world?

Participants' contributions were meant to help us and stakeholders understand how the European Union is perceived in its regional and transnational work by those who live in its Member States. How accessible democracy is for the people, what values people would like the Union to represent, and what role it should play in supporting transnational participatory democracy. Moreover, contributions would inspire the *EU for Global* partners for the organisation of local and transnational Citizens' Panels throughout Europe in the next few years. Participants' inputs would specifically be taken into account in choosing topics and issues to address both in the panels and in the recommendations that the *EU for Global* partners will present to the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and other high-level political representatives in 2026 at the end of the project. This will inform their discussions on the future of transnational participation democracy and give people a say on the European Union's stance in its global role.

In order to create a participatory environment open to exchange, we set up an interactive consultation on the Consul platform. Consul is a citizen participation platform in which citizens can go beyond simply answering the questionnaire, but can also propose, debate and vote ideas. Our focus was the four main areas of global policy important to the EU, which have identified by the *EU for Global* partners: democratic participation, climate and environment, solidarity, and disinformation and media literacy.

Throughout the first phase of the survey, we therefore formulated several questions that would allow us to delve deeper into these issues and to understand the impressions of EU citizens and residents. The survey was designed to be divided into sections, each dealing with one of the project's core themes. The first section aimed at investigating the accessibility and awareness of democratic instruments within the EU, looking at the way citizens can take influence on EU foreign policy. The

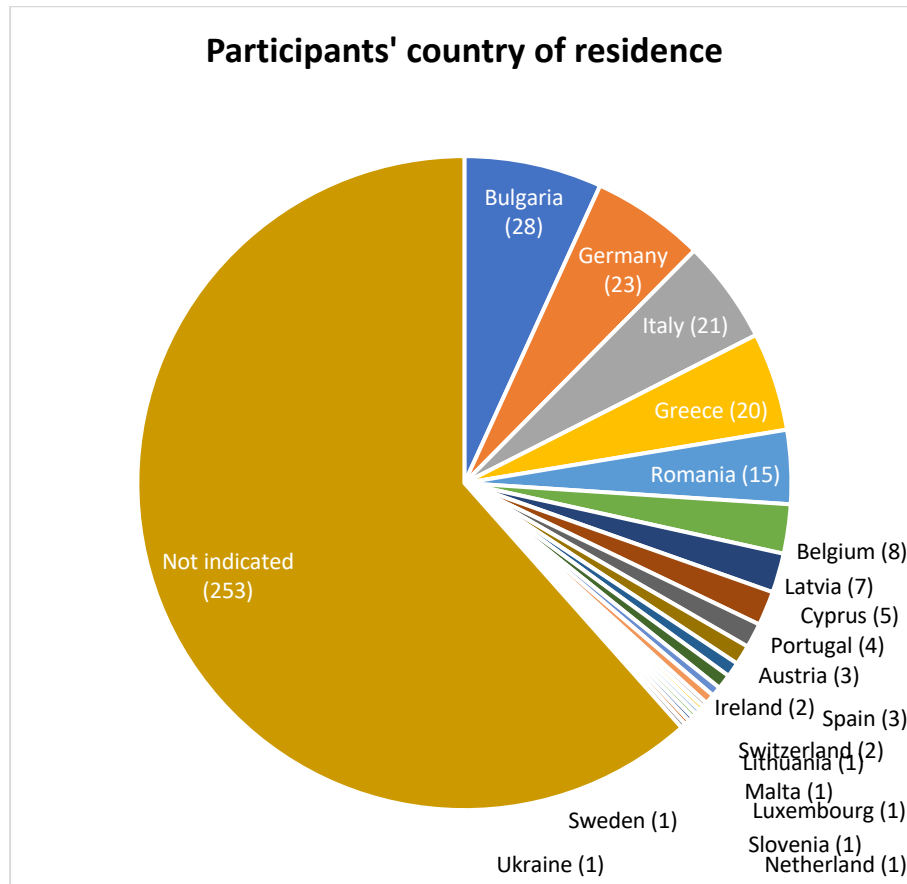
second section investigated the values associated with the EU, its mission and its everyday action by its citizens. The third section shed light on impressions of the EU's role in the rest of the world. Finally, the last group of questions investigated more closely the relationship between the EU and the use, implementation and promotion of participatory democratic tools globally.

Moreover, as part of the overall mission of the *EU for Global* project, the Consultation was designed to address traditionally underrepresented groups. For this reason, the Consortium intensively shared the consultation at their local levels, and informed Consultation's participants about the automatic translation that Consul platform provides. At the end of the survey, we tried to gather more information about the participants, about the country they live in and other information about their personal perception towards their status in regard to social and political participation.

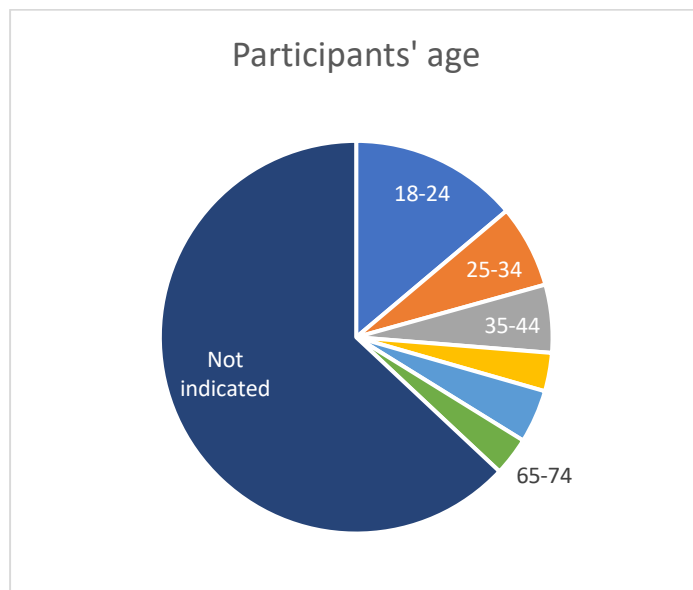
When the Consultation went online publicly on 18 September 2024, we intensively started our promotion campaign to encourage its completion. The promotion strategy relied on the use of social media channels, mailings, and any other available communication media, which helped achieve the final quantitative objectives and facilitated a greater territorial diversification of the participants.

1. Collection of results

Overall, 411 people from more than 21 countries took part in the Consultation. The majority of them declined to indicate their country of residence, for reasons of inclusivity we did not collect indications of citizenship status. Large representation can be found from countries where *EU for Global's* partners are based, which is in line with the recruiting method using civil society organisations as main multipliers in order to overrepresent the traditionally underrepresented.

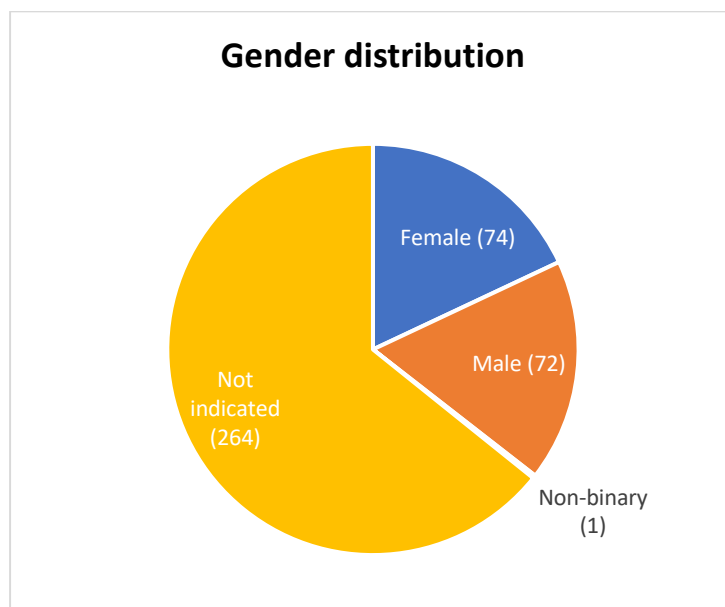


People of different age groups, from 18 to 74 years old, participated in the survey, with an average of 35 years and a median of 30, the whole for the European Union being 44,5. This indicates that younger people took part in larger numbers and are therefore overrepresented in the survey. The largest share of participants indicates being under 25 and between 25 and 35. This is in line with *EU for Global's* goal of overrepresenting the underrepresented and reflects efforts to recruit young participants in general.



Yet, young people were not the sole underrepresented group that we tried to collect opinions from. With the Consortium's network and multiplying strategy, we incentivised societal groups that are traditionally excluded from decision-making processes to share their views. More than 38% of the Consultation's participants indicated to feel as if they belong to an underrepresented group, and 9,23% indicated to identify as people with disability.

Of the participants who chose to indicate their gender, 50% were women and 50% were men.



Participants were asked several questions on their perceptions on the work and values of the European Union, in regard to the people living in the region but also to its role in the global stage.

As part of the *EU for Global's* mission, fair and accurate representation of the needs and challenges for the people living in the EU is a central point. However, it is pivotal to highlight that the Consultation and this study for its evaluation cannot be considered representative of the people of the EU, but solely of those who took part in it.

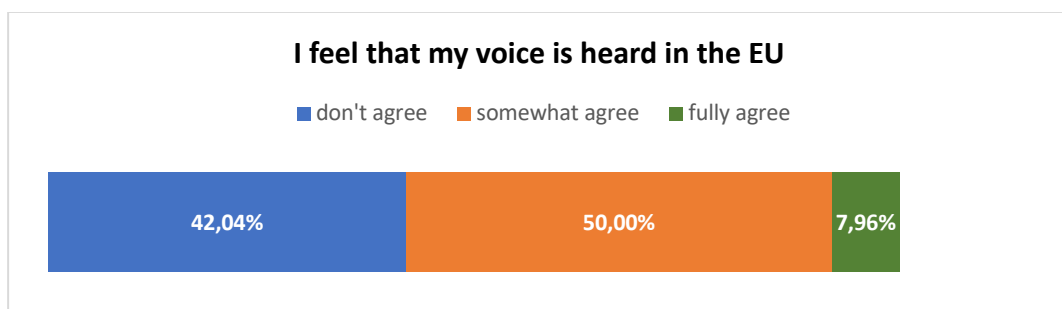
2. Survey results

2.1 The state of and access to democracy in the European Union

In this first part, we polled how respondents feel the quality of democracy in the EU is and how well-known and well-used the different tools of democratic participation in the EU are.

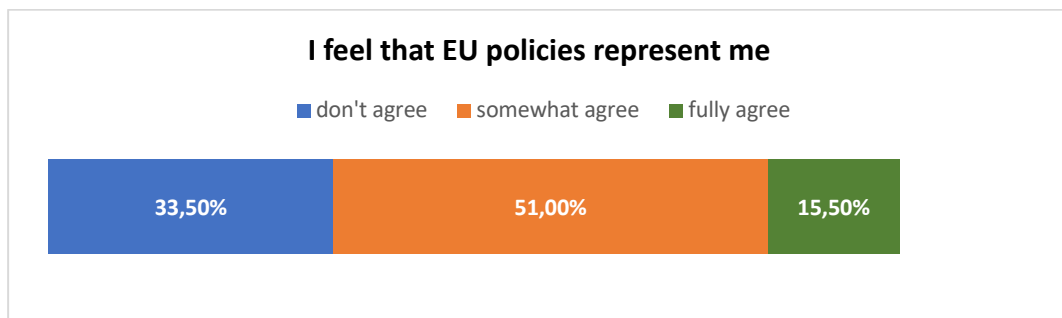
2.1.1 I feel that my voice is heard in the EU

Half of the people who took part in the survey consider that their opinions are only partially taken into consideration by the EU political representative. Only a small group of participants feel that their voices are fully heard in the EU, whilst a significant number of people do not agree with the statement as they do not perceive their voices being considered.



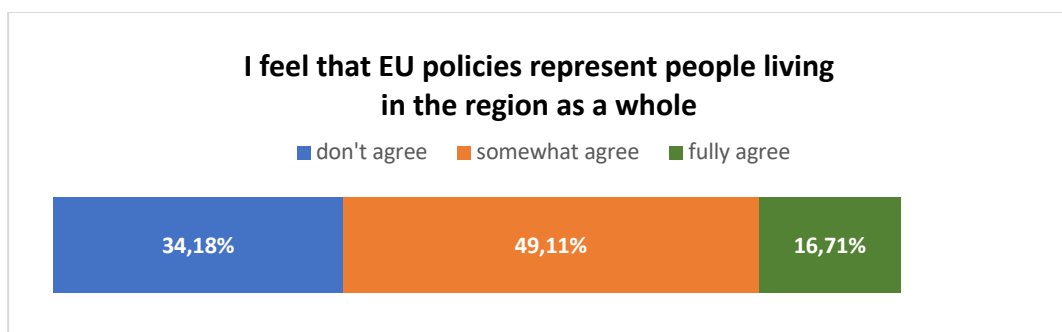
2.1.2 I feel that EU policies represent me

When asked whether they feel represented by EU policies, the majority of participants partially or fully agreed with the statement. Around $\frac{1}{3}$ of the participants fully disagreed, stating that they do not feel represented by EU policies, whilst a small group expressed their satisfaction in how EU policies represent them. Overall, more people feel they are in some way represented and that their voice is heard at EU level, indicating a certain measure of indirectness in EU political representation.



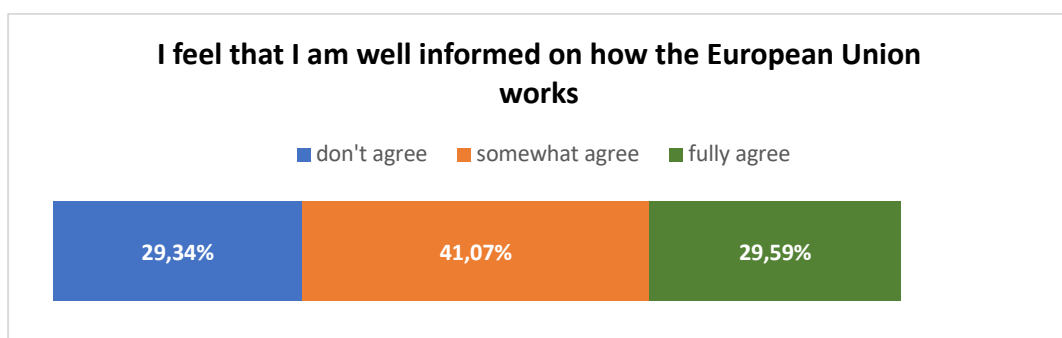
2.1.3 I feel that EU policies represent people living in the region as a whole

The percentages slightly change when people are asked if these policies not only represent them, but also the other people living in the Union. One can notice that the number of people disagreeing with the statement increases, and interestingly enough so does the percentage of people agreeing with it. This shows that some participants feel represented but acknowledge that others are not, and others do not feel represented but are aware that EU policies represent other people more comprehensively than themselves.



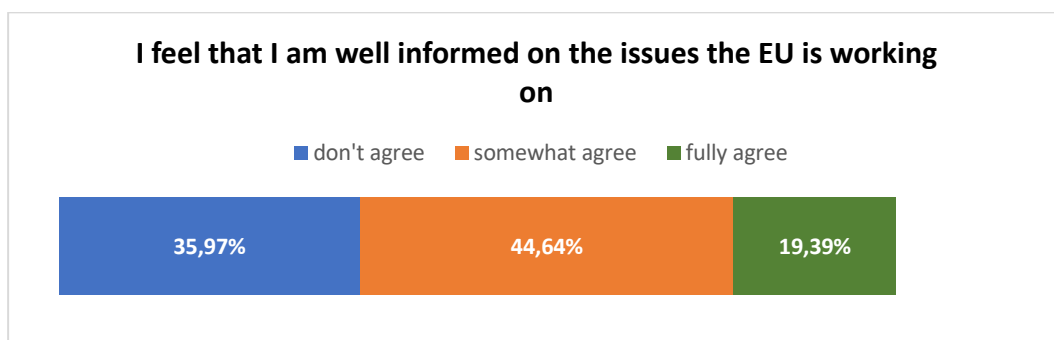
2.1.4 I feel that I am well informed on how the European Union works

Whilst almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of participants do not feel fully informed on how the EU works, most people who took part in the Consultation (over 70%) stated that they are aware of the structure of the EU. However, the biggest section of participants expressed that they only have partial information on it (41%), about one-third fully agree with the statement.



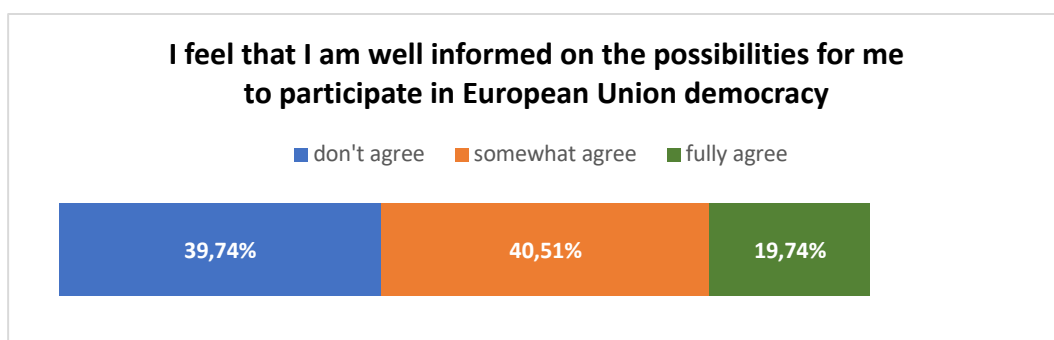
2.1.5 I feel that I am well informed on the issues the EU is working on

Differently from the previous question, when asked about their awareness on the issues that EU political representatives are currently addressing, the group of participants that do not feel sufficiently informed increases – with only less than 20% fully informed. More people felt partially informed, and an even bigger increase is shown in the group of people that are not familiar with the issues on EU agendas. Combined with the previous question, we can deduce that the people who live in the EU feel better informed on the general structure and objectives of the EU - knowledge they may have gathered through formal education - than on the actual day-to-day workings of the EU, which may reflect an underreporting on EU affairs in media.



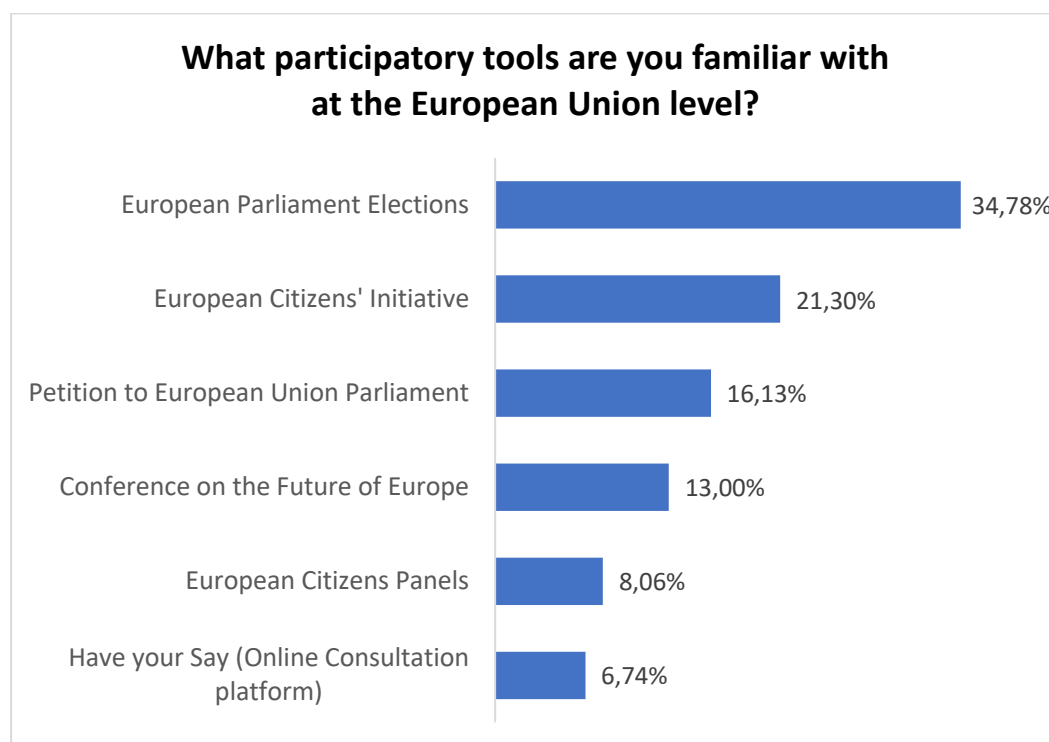
2.1.6 I feel that I am well informed on the possibilities for me to participate in European Union democracy

When asked specifically on the mechanisms of participation in the EU, a different picture altogether emerges, and even fewer participants indicate that they feel sufficiently informed. It is pivotal to acknowledge in the context of access to democracy and participation mechanisms, that a high number of people do not feel informed on the possibilities on how to participate in the democratic life of the EU. While more than half of participants feel informed, even if to different extents, almost 40% of the people consulted answered that they do not have sufficient information on such possibilities of participation.



2.1.7 What participatory tools are you familiar with at the European Union level?

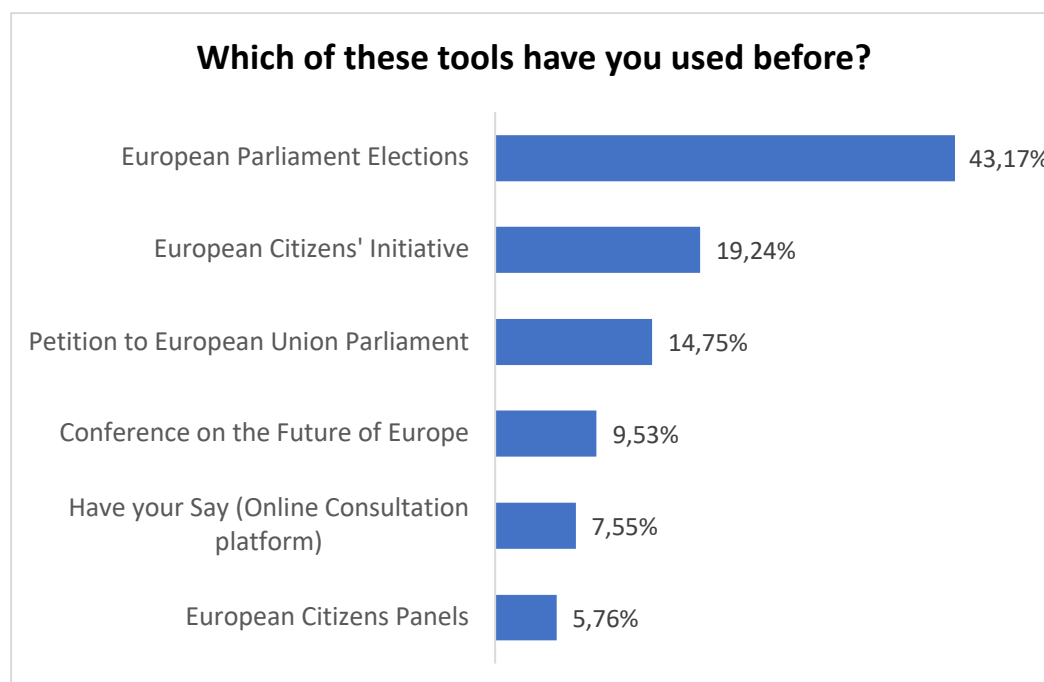
Participants indicated that the most well-known tool of political participation in the EU are the European Parliamentary Elections. This should not be surprising given that the turnout has fluctuated between 40%-50% over the past 20 years. That less people (35%) indicate knowing of the European Parliament Elections could be a reflection of participants knowing them better as “European Election”. It can also be due to the high number of participants from countries marked by lower turnout in the elections such as Latvia and Bulgaria. The European Citizens Initiative is the second most well-known tool, with more than one in five respondents indicating having heard of it. This may reflect the recruitment method for the consultation in general which was reached mostly through civil society organisations working on democracy and related issues. Petitions to the EU Parliament (16%), and the Conference on the Future of Europe (13%) also proved to be known amongst those who took part in the Consultation. Differently, EU Citizens Panels and the Have Your Say platform are the least renowned, with less than 9% of participants having heard of them. This should be unsurprising seeing as they are the newest addition to the EU’s arsenal of participation tools. Besides, EU Citizens Panels’ recruitment of participants is based on random selection, hence it is not up to the people to decide to participate, making it less known and accessible.



2.1.8 Which of these tools have you used before?

Being familiar with a participatory tool and using it are two different things. This graph shows that almost half of the participants voted in the European Parliament elections, this is in line with turnout reported throughout the Union. It also supports the reading that people are more familiar with the term “European Elections” and therefore in the previous question

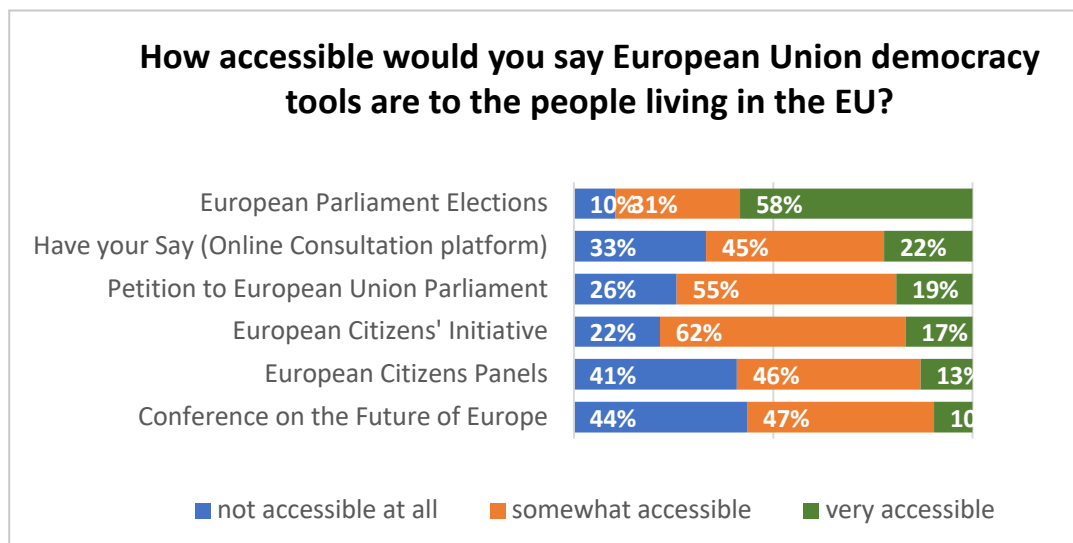
indicated that they had never heard of the European Parliament Elections, despite reporting having taken part in them here. Official European Citizens' Initiatives have also been used by one in five participants, lending itself to the interpretation that those who know the tool also tend to use it. Petitions to the Parliament have been used by one in six. One in ten respondents reported having used the Conference on the Future of Europe, in this case that should refer to the online participation (Have Your Say) platform connected to the conference.¹ Overall, however, except for the elections, most tools are not used by all the people that are aware of their existence.



2.1.9 How accessible would you say European Union democracy tools are to the people living in the EU?

Participants expressed that the EU's democracy tools are generally accessible. All the tools received a majority of votes for being accessible, whether fully or partially. The elections again have the reputation of being the most accessible mechanism, with over the majority of votes for full accessibility (58%). The least accessible tool is the Conference on the Future of Europe, with almost half the votes (44%) indicating full inaccessibility. This can reflect the necessity of having been randomly selected to be a full participant of the Conference, leaving all other citizens with only the possibility to contribute to the online platform. The same goes for the European Citizens Panels, the one-off Conference's permanent successor, which is rated the second-least accessible. A large majority of participants (62%) indicate that they find the European Citizens' Initiative somewhat accessible, with only 17% finding it fully accessible. This may indicate the need for lower hurdles for participation in the ECI.

¹ Almost 10% of the respondents reported to have taken part in the Conference of Europe. It is quite unlikely that such a relatively high number of Conference's participants took part in this survey. As per accurate evaluation, we assume that participating in the Conference of Europe is understood as having a say in the Conference's topic matters – in this case in the online platform associated with it.



2.1.10 Conclusion

In general, we can conclude that respondents are mostly satisfied with the quality of democracy in the EU. Even considering around 35% of people who do not feel represented by EU policies, the majority does feel represented, both individually and as a society and rate the quality of access to the different democracy mechanisms as high. This points to a high overall satisfaction in the general democratic value of EU politics, even considering a 30% of respondents not feeling represented.

However, the picture appears more nuanced when asked about specific tools or policies, where much less participants indicate being familiar with them. This can be considered as a reflection of the perceived remoteness of the Union's day-to-day actions, perhaps due to a lack of media reporting, lower general public interest and lower electoral accountability: ills that have plagued the Union since its inception. The fact that most respondents indicated using the democratic instruments they know of, gives us hope that with the advent of more accessible and diverse mechanisms for participation, more citizens will seize the opportunity to take part and will feel closer to the EU's work overtime.

2.2 Values of the European Union

In the second part, we questioned respondents on their perception of and alignment with the values of the EU. In addition, we questioned the participants on the values the Union carries out into the world. The respondents were able to answer in free text, the results of which were analysed for content and key concepts then aggregated and listed here.

2.2.1 What values do you associate with the mission of the European Union?

The survey responses reveal that the EU is predominantly perceived as a community founded on shared values, with democracy (64 mentions), peace (36), human rights (34), and freedom (33) at its core. These principles highlight the EU's role as a defender of democratic governance and human rights. While rule of law and justice (28), unity and community of nations (26), and equality (25) are also strongly associated with its mission, social security and welfare (8) appear less frequently. Similarly, economic and market-related values—such as the common market (10), economic stability (9), and market-driven economy (4)—receive comparatively little emphasis, despite the EU's origins as the European Economic Community. Notably, sustainability and environmental concerns (20) rank higher than economic themes, indicating a shift in perception toward broader global responsibilities. Additionally, values like cooperation (13), solidarity (10), and public discourse (4) suggest that respondents see the EU as a project of unity and collective governance rather than merely an economic entity.

What values do you associate with the mission of the European Union?	
Democracy	64
Peace	36
Human rights	34
Freedom	33
Rule of law, justice	28
Unity, community of nations	26
Equality	25
Sustainability, climate action, environment	20
Cooperation	13
Solidarity	10
Common market, economic cooperation	10
Economic stability	9
Social security, justice, welfare	8
Prosperity	6
Participation	4
Market-driven economy, economic interests	4
Openness	4
Public debate, discourse	4
Money	3
Free market, economy	3

2.2.2 What values do you associate with the day-to-day actions of the European Union?

To differentiate between the idea of the European Union's founding ideology and its current daily activities, we asked respondents how they perceive the EU's day-to-day actions. When examining the day-to-day actions of the EU, participants overwhelmingly identify sustainability, climate action, and environmental protection (25 mentions) as core values. This

reflects the EU's increased focus on environmental issues, with the Green New Deal among others, in recent years - making climate action a central part of its policy agenda and public image. While democracy (14), rule of law and justice (12), and peace (10) remain significant, they are associated less frequently than sustainability, signalling a shift in perception toward environmental governance as a primary EU function when it comes to its daily actions. Human rights, equality, and social security (each with 8 mentions) also highlight the EU's role in promoting fairness and social justice. Notably, economic growth (4) and economic interests (3) receive relatively little emphasis, reinforcing the idea that the EU's daily operations are perceived as more focused on governance and sustainability than economic or market-driven concerns. Additionally, some respondents associate bureaucracy (3), corruption (2), and internal fights (2) with the EU's daily operations, indicating a degree of scepticism about its efficiency and internal cohesion. Overall, while the EU is seen as upholding its foundational principles, its day-to-day actions are perceived as centred on climate action, governance, and social welfare, with some critical views on its internal functioning.

What values do you associate with the day-to-day actions of the European Union?	
Sustainability, climate action, environment	25
Democracy	14
Rule of law, justice	12
Peace	10
Human rights	8
Equality	8
Social security, social justice, welfare	8
Freedom	7
Climate	7
Solidarity	6
Cooperation (international)	4
Transparency	4
Economic growth, development	4
Bureaucracy	3
Economic interests	3
Energy safety, efficiency	3
Unity	2
Social inclusion	2
Internal fights	2
Corruption	2

2.2.3 What values would you like the European Union to incorporate in its day-to-day actions?

In order to identify possible lacks in the EU's policy focus, we asked respondents about the values they would like the EU to incorporate in its day-to-day actions. In the resulting answers we see that participants overwhelmingly prioritise sustainability, climate action, and environmental protection (35 mentions), indicating that while the EU is seen as already

dedicating a lot of its attention to climate change, respondents expect to see more. There is also a strong desire for the EU to focus on defending human rights (19), democracy (19), and peace (17), highlighting the continued importance of these core values and perhaps also reflecting concerns over the recent trend of democratic backsliding, not just in the world but also in Europe. Equality (16) and increased participation through direct democracy (13) reflect a call for greater citizen engagement in decision-making, suggesting that the EU needs to improve its democratic processes and involve people even more actively.

While freedom (12) and social security/social justice (12) indicate some interest in social policies, these aspects receive comparatively less attention in desired future actions. Inclusivity (10), justice (9), accountability (8), and solidarity (8) suggest that respondents want a more transparent, fair, and socially responsible EU. The mentions of minority rights and anti-discrimination (6), transparency (6), and diversity (5) further support this preference for openness and fairness in governance.

Notably, economic concerns are largely absent from the responses, while values such as sovereignty of member states (3), openness to migration (3), and humanism (3) indicate that some participants value balancing national autonomy with EU-wide policies. The inclusion of honesty (3) and integrity (5) also suggests concerns about trust in EU institutions. Overall, the responses indicate that participants want the EU to strengthen its commitment to sustainability, human rights, and participatory democracy while enhancing transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in its daily operations.

What values would you like the European Union to incorporate in its day-to-day actions?	
Sustainability, climate action, environment	35
Human rights	19
Democracy	19
Peace	17
Equality	16
More participation, direct democracy	13
Freedom	12
Social security, social justice	12
Inclusivity	10
Justice	9
Accountability	8
Solidarity	8
Minority rights, anti-discrimination	6
Transparency	6
Diversity	5
Integrity	5
Respect	4
Accessibility	3
Sovereignty of member states	3
Humanism	3

Openness to migration	3
Equity	3
Honesty	3

2.2.4 Which values do you consider that the European Union carries out into the rest on the world?

Finally, we asked respondents more directly about the role the EU currently takes on in the rest of the world, polling the values respondents feel the European Union carries out into the rest of the world. Their responses reveal that democracy (26 mentions), peace (24), sustainability, and environmental protection (23) were often mentioned. These results show that the EU is seen as a significant promoter of democratic and environmental values globally. The mention of regulations (3) can be linked to that, as it is seen as a positive influence setting global standards. The EU's commitment to peace, in particular, is widely recognised, aligning with its historical origins as a peace project. High numbers of mentions of human rights (19), freedom (14), rule of law (12), international cooperation and transparency (2) show that the EU is seen as a promoter of democratic values in the world at large.

However, some responses also reflect critical views of the EU's global role. Perceptions of hypocrisy (5) suggest a gap between the EU's stated values and its actions, with some questioning its consistency. Post-colonial views (2) indicate ongoing concerns about the EU's approach to developing countries, particularly in terms of neo-imperial tendencies. Eurocentrism (4) reflects doubts about the EU's overall capacity for influence on the global stage. Values like economic growth (5) and stability (5) are also prominent but are overshadowed by the more critical perspectives of exporting neoliberalism (2) and the EU's own economic interests (5), hinting at a more transactional or self-interested EU approach. Lastly, responses referencing unity (3), corruption (3) show that the EU is not perceived as a purely idealistic actor, but one that faces internal and external challenges. All in all, the results provide a complex perception of the European Union's global role, highlighting both its strengths as a promoter of democracy, peace, and sustainability, as well as its challenges related to credibility, post-colonial legacies, and economic interests.

Which values do you consider that the European Union carries out into the rest on the world?	
Democracy	26
Sustainability, climate action, environment	24
Peace	23
Human rights	19
Freedom	14
Rule of law, justice	12
Equality	10
International cooperation	8
Hypocrisy	5
Economic growth	5
Economic interests	5
Stability	5
Eurocentrism	4
Unity	3
Corruption	3
Regulations	3
Post-colonialist views and structures	2
Transparency	2
Solidarity	2
Diplomacy	2
We should not carry values into the rest of the world	2
Neoliberalism	2

2.2.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, the survey responses provide a multifaceted view of the European Union's values and its global role. The EU is largely perceived as a promoter of democracy, peace, sustainability, and human rights, with these values strongly associated with its mission and daily operations. The shift in focus toward sustainability and environmental protection reflects a growing recognition of the EU's commitment to climate action and its evolving global responsibilities. While the EU's foundational values such as democracy and human rights remain central, there is a clear desire for greater emphasis on social justice, inclusivity, and participatory democracy in its future actions.

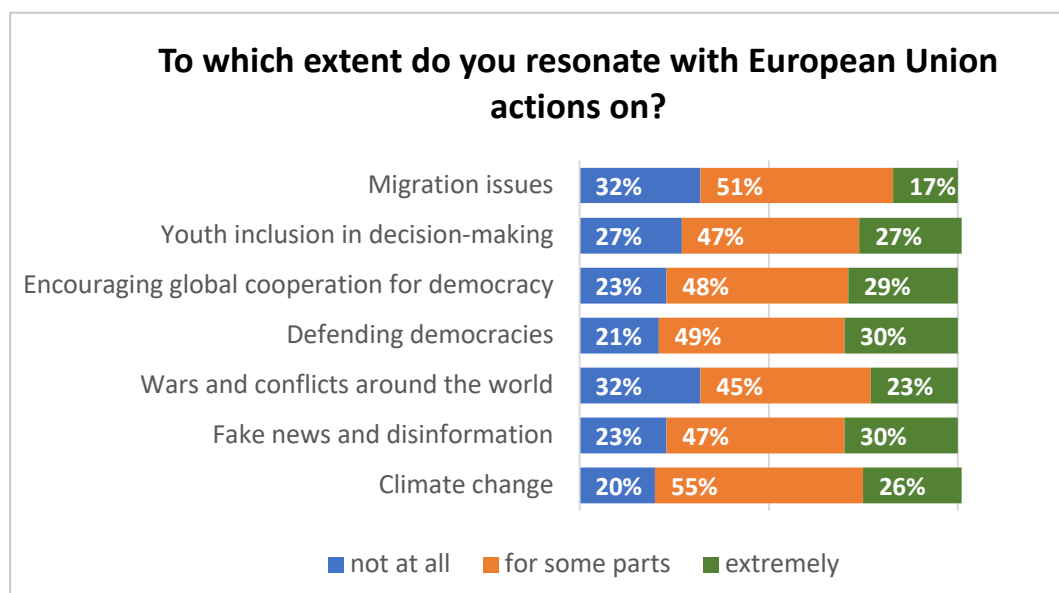
However, the results also reveal a more critical side, with concerns over the EU's consistency with its values in its global actions, particularly regarding accusations of hypocrisy, post-colonial legacies, and economic self-interest. The perceptions of the EU as an economic and regulatory power highlight both its strengths and the challenges it faces in balancing idealism with practical interests. Ultimately, the survey underscores the complexity of the EU's image as a global actor—seen as a champion of democratic and environmental values yet also facing scrutiny over its internal functioning and the implementation of its policies in the world.

2.3 The role of the European Union in the World

In the next chapter of the consultation, we asked respondents on their alignment with the EU's position in the world and how they see the role of the EU globally, both when it comes to action on specific policy areas of global importance and democratic participation on these issues.

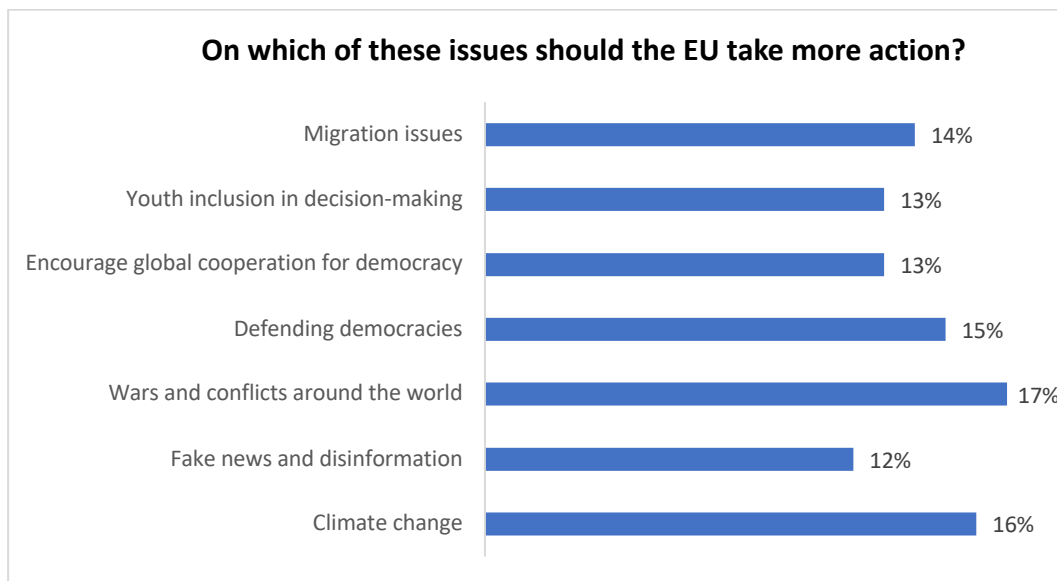
2.3.1 To which extent do you resonate with European Union actions?

For this question, we identified some of the main issues of global importance, where the EU has formulated foreign policy and is compelled to act as a bloc. When asked about their resonance with EU action on selected issues of importance on the global level, participants show a clear consistency in their answers. They mostly resonate, whether fully or partially, with EU actions, with 75% of participants feeling fully or partially aligned with EU foreign policy action. When looking at specific issues, we see that only around 20% of participants do not resonate with EU policies and actions on climate change, fake news and disinformation, defending democracies, encouraging global cooperation for democracy, and youth inclusion in decision-making. The percentage increases to 32% when it comes to migration and global wars and conflicts, showing more dissatisfaction. This reflects that the EU's migration policy and its stance in response to conflicts remain hot-button issues.



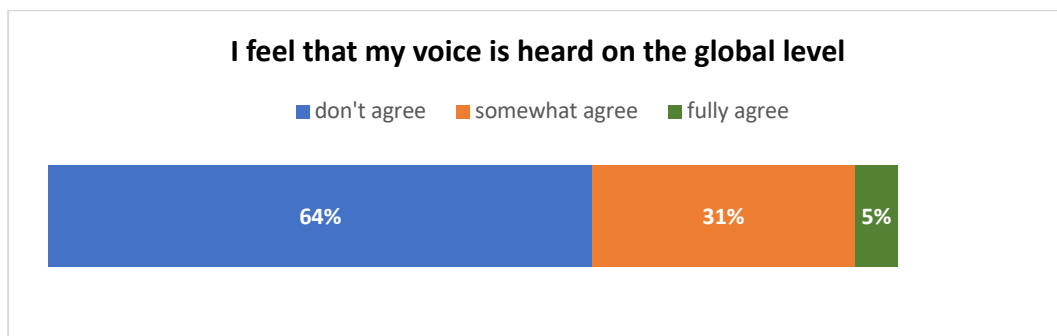
2.3.2 On which of these issues should the EU take more action?

Despite mostly resonating with EU actions towards global challenges, participants also showed their desire for the EU to be more active on such issues. Votes are very similar amongst categories. However, wars and conflicts around the world appear to be the most pressing topic amongst participants for the EU to take more action on. This is likely a reflection of the fragmented reaction of EU member states to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Climate change is the second topic where respondents would like to see more action from the EU, perhaps a signal that the 2020 Green New Deal falls short of what the EU audience expects from their leaders. Given the stronger dissatisfaction with the EU's migration policies in the previous question, we could have expected a higher percentage for more action here.



2.3.3 I feel that my voice is heard on the global level

Whilst above we noted that participants feel their voices are heard at the EU level, this is not the case for the global sphere. A clear statement was given by participants, with a big majority (64%) fully disagreeing with the question and expressing that they do not feel heard on the global level. This indicates an opportunity for the EU to play a bigger role in representing its population in international fora such as the UN.



2.3.4 I feel that global policies represent me and the people of the world

Whilst slightly changed, the situation does not differ when discussing global policies. More than half of the participants do not feel represented by policies on the global level and equally feel that they do not represent the people of the world in general. These findings underline the perception of multilateral institutions such as the UN, the World Bank or the World Trade Organisation as inaccessible and unaccountable.

I feel that global policies represent me

■ don't agree ■ somewhat agree ■ fully agree



I feel that global policies represent the people of world

■ don't agree ■ somewhat agree ■ fully agree



2.3.5 I feel it is important for people of the world to be represented in global policies

The picture shifts strongly when asked about the desirability of global representation. The respondents' answers prove that people living in the EU consider it of utmost importance that the people of the world are represented in global policies, with more than 90% of votes in agreement (full or partial) with the statement.

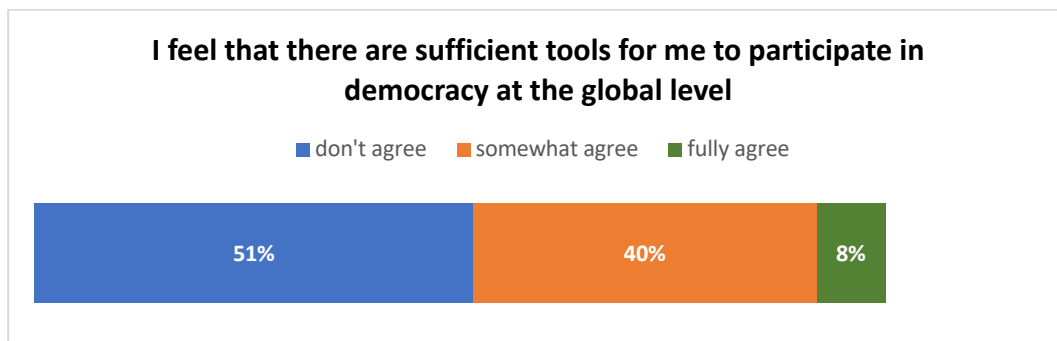
I feel that it is important for people of the world to be represented in global policies

■ don't agree ■ somewhat agree ■ fully agree



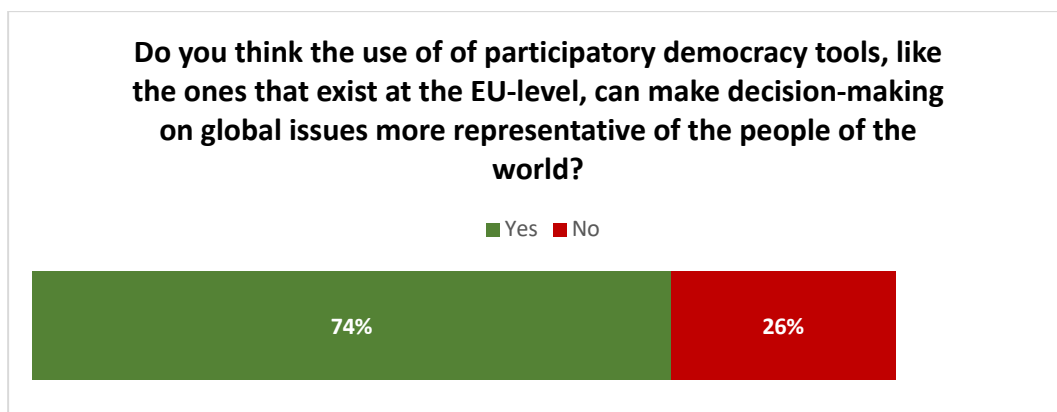
2.3.6 I feel that there are sufficient tools for me to participate in democracy at the global level

Moreover, whilst some people are partially satisfied with their participation in global issues, which is at present solely representative, the majority of participants (51%) state that there are not sufficient tools to participate in democracy globally.



2.3.7 Do you think the use of participatory democracy tools, like the ones that exist at the EU-level, can make decision-making on global issues more representative of the people of the world?

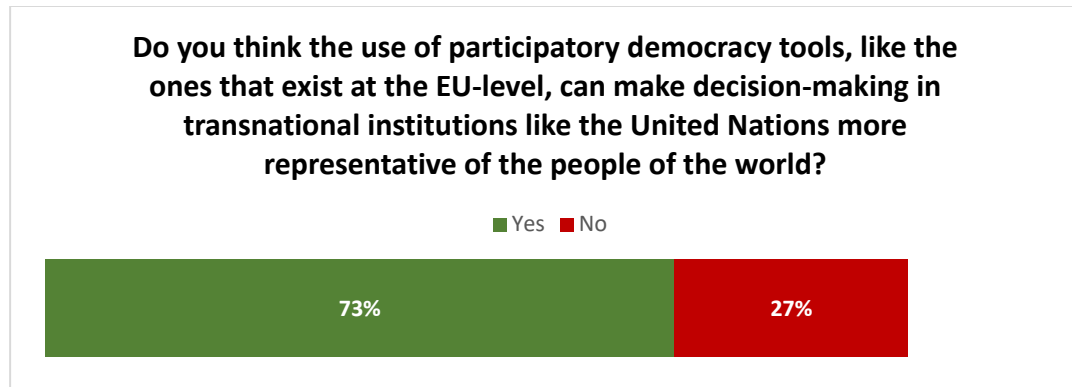
An overwhelming majority of participants state that they believe that the participatory mechanisms that are used at the EU level can make global democracy more representative and allow for more people to have a say in decision-making processes on global challenges. This shows a strong desire for more diverse and accessible democratic participation on important global policy issues, such as climate change, conflicts and migration. This could both be applied within the EU, by creating stronger accountability and allowing greater public participation when it comes to EU foreign policy issues. However, it could also be applied in other, planetary, multilateral institutions, where the EU could act as a supporter of increased democratic participation, building on its own experience with transnational participation mechanisms.



2.3.8 Do you think the use of participatory democracy tools, like the ones that exist at the EU-level, can make decision-making in transnational institutions like the United Nations more representative of the people of the world?

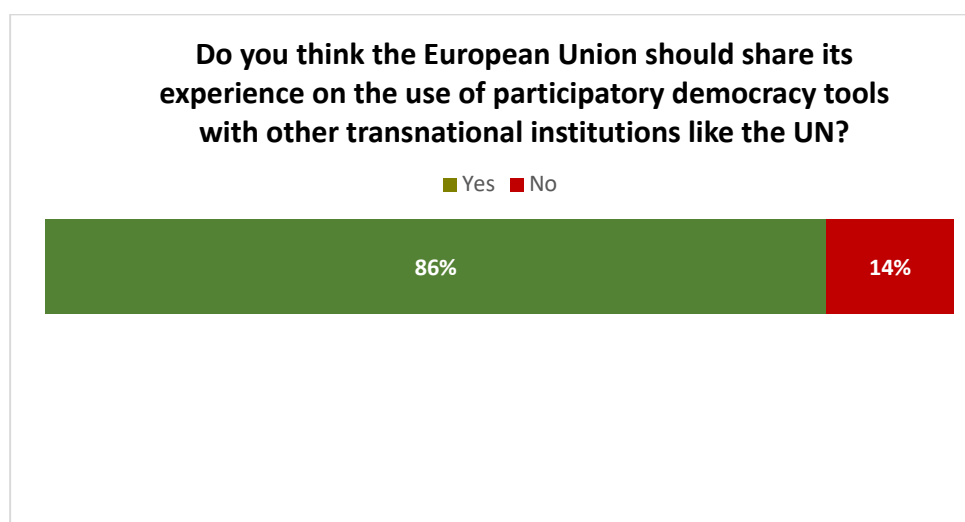
With a very similar vote, participants also expressed that EU democracy tools not only could allow for more citizens participation on global issues but also inspire other transnational institutions. They believe that transnational participatory mechanisms currently used in the EU can make other transnational institutions, like the UN, more representative of people

around the world. This again shows that the citizens of the EU view that the Union's experience with democratic participation is beneficial and can alleviate the democratic deficit on the planetary level.



2.3.9 Do you think the European Union should share its experience on the use of participatory democracy tools with other transnational institutions like the UN?

Lastly, with the strongest vote of this Consultation, participants state that the EU should consider share its unique experience using transnational participatory tools with other institutions, like the UN. This shows that respondents feel it is the Union's responsibility to foster democratic access also to global institutions and that the EU's pioneering experience with transnational democratic participation can be of very high value to other transnational institutions



2.3.10 Conclusion

The findings of this chapter highlight a clear message: while EU citizens largely resonate with the Union's foreign policy actions, they also express a strong desire for the EU to take a more proactive role in addressing global challenges—especially in conflict resolution, climate change, and migration. However, beyond policy action, there is an even more profound

concern: the lack of democratic representation at the global level. A significant majority of participants feel unheard in international decision-making, and they view global institutions as inaccessible and unaccountable.

Yet, rather than disengagement, this frustration fuels a powerful demand for change. Respondents overwhelmingly believe that the EU's experience with transnational participatory mechanisms offers a model that could enhance democracy on a planetary scale. They see the EU not only as a key actor in global governance but as a potential leader in bridging the democratic deficit that plagues institutions like the UN and the WTO.

The strongest takeaway from this consultation is the call for the EU to champion democratic participation beyond its borders. By leveraging its pioneering democratic tools, the EU has the opportunity—and, in the eyes of its citizens, the responsibility—to advocate for a more inclusive and representative global governance system. The path forward is clear: an EU that not only acts but also empowers, ensuring that the voices of its people—and the people of the world—are truly heard in shaping the future of global policy.

2.4 Proposals and Recommendations

The final step of the Consultation was a place where participants could directly share ideas and proposals on issues and tools the European Union should address and implement as a global democratic agent.

The Consul platform allows for direct pitching of proposals, that can be viewed, commented and voted by all Consultations' participants. In this way, respondents were also provided with a space for discussion and exchange of ideas. We chose this methodology to accurately represent the ideas of the participants and to ensure that people could directly formulate their own proposals for EU foreign policies. The format of open proposals and debate ensured that our evaluation of survey results was not a subjective interpretation. Rather, it was also supported by direct recommendations from the respondents to:

- ⇒ inspire discussions in the project-related Citizens' Panels, and
- ⇒ inform the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and other high-level political representatives on people's needs and concerns related to democracy and transnational participation.

The result of such online debate and proposal pitching space led to the elaboration of numerous co-designed recommendations to propose specific actions for the EU to address the following topics:

- 2.4.1 Citizen Participation and Direct Democracy**
- 2.4.2 EU Governance and Accountability**
- 2.4.3 Transparency and Information**
- 2.4.4 Non-EU Citizen and Minority Participation**
- 2.4.5 Climate and Environmental Action**
- 2.4.6 Global Cooperation and Human Rights**
- 2.4.7 Economic and Technology Policies**
- 2.4.8 Peace and Security**
- 2.4.9 EU Identity and Values**

2.4.10 EU Foreign Policy

2.4.11 Conclusion

Around 200 of the Consultation's participants took part in this digital discussion and voting, leading to a comprehensive list of recommendations with comments and sub-sections for the details. The participation of half of the survey respondents is a positive result for our evaluation. As a matter of fact, compared to online surveys with open questions, such participation is remarkable and shows the desire of the people living in the EU to have a bigger say on EU foreign policy decision-making. It is, however, important to mention that the collection of recommendations did not solely include the ideas submitted in the proposals' section, but also those posted in the comments' section².

The detailed list of recommendations, with related voting and comments statistics, is attached at the end of this document in Annex.1.

Overall, through the proposals submitted by the consultation's participants, we can identify main issues that people living in the EU would like to urge the Union to act upon. One of the key findings is that respondents believe that European Union is not inclusive enough. On the one hand, they have highlighted the need to increase youth representation in transnational bodies and policymaking processes, as well as to expand direct public voting on the issues that directly affect citizens and residents. On the other, a human rights perspective has spotlighted that inclusivity is lacking also at the societal level, and there is a need to a stronger commitment to human rights protection – namely, through child protection standards, safe legal migration pathways and humane treatment, inclusive protection of PWD and LGBTQI+ people, amongst other matters. Moreover, the consultation's participants have stressed the importance to boost inclusivity efforts also on the topic of non-EU-citizens democratic participation, suggesting more involvement of all EU residents in voting, governance and policy development.

Another core topic of the proposed recommendations concerns direct democracy and participatory mechanisms. Several respondents have raised the issue that there is not enough awareness about the participation tools available for the people living in the EU. Expanding knowledge on them would not only lead to more participation in daily politics, but also reduce the existing distance between the political representatives and the citizens. On the same issue, people have suggested to use more and diversify democracy mechanisms and strengthen the ones already established. Proposals, for example, suggested the encouragement of using participatory budget, or introduction of universal unconditional basic income at the EU level.

In addition, also democratic threats have been pointed out, suggesting for instance the strengthening of EU-level standards of control for digital threats, but also for the EU to take on a stronger role as a global democracy promoted towards the neighbouring non-democratic countries. Ideological nationalism has also been pointed out as a threat to democracy by respondents, which should be dealt with by the EU by fighting hostility and xenophobia whilst protecting national uniqueness and cultural identity. On a similar note, the consultation's participants have highlighted the importance to preserve national differences and protect ethnic minorities – for example, by establishing a permanent consultative body of elected representatives of ethnic minorities to address policymaking on minority rights.

² See chapter 3: Concerns and challenges.

Lastly, proposals touched upon the role of the EU in the world. Generally, the idea amongst recommendations is for the EU to increase its international influence as democracy promoter and as pioneer of transnational participatory tools. More specifically, respondents proposed for the EU to cooperate with CSOs and International Organisations beyond EU borders to apply transnational participatory tools at the global level, and ultimately reform international actors like the UN. At the same time, the EU should increase its climate action and increase environmental protection policy, whilst holding accountability for its hindering actions. This could also be supported by the introduction of transnational Citizens Panels to discuss environmental issues and how to address them.

It is clear that Consultation's participants would like the EU to step up and take on a stronger position as a global promoter of democracy, yet some have pointed out that it is necessary to strengthen its economic power and stability to do it in a successful manner.

3. Concerns and challenges

As part of the Consultation's debate space, not only we have opened a proposals' section to pitch proposals directly, but also a comments' section, for broader discussions. In such comments' section, several respondents took the chance to voice their concerns and what they consider the challenges that the Union needs to overcome to responsibly act as a global democracy pioneer.

The survey's open questions on EU values paved the way for the participants to highlight their concerns on the internal functioning of the EU. This was made clear in particular, in comments that mentioned economic self-interests, accusations of hypocrisy and post-colonial legacies, or were more generally referring to power struggles, internally as well as with other regional agents.

This critical approach was also taken on in the comments section of the Consultation, which allowed for broader discussions. For example, participants raised concerns regarding the transparency and democratic nature of the EU's decision-making processes, with some perceiving a concentration of influence among unelected officials. There is also a perception that EU policies primarily benefit wealthier groups rather than the general population. Additionally, concerns were expressed about limited communication between members of parliament and their constituents, particularly in relation to voting decisions and forthcoming resolutions.

It is, hence, evident that the major concern amongst the people who participated in the Consultation relates to EU political representatives, their internal affairs and conflicts, and the lack of direct representation of the needs and challenges of the majority of the population living in the Union.

4. Final considerations

In conclusion, the Online Consultation – A Stronger EU for the World, as part of the *EU for Global* project, has provided invaluable insights into how citizens and residents of the European Union view the role of the EU in global affairs and its democratic mechanisms. The consultation engaged a diverse group of participants, including individuals from over 21 countries, with a significant portion identifying as part of underrepresented groups. Over 38% of respondents felt that they belong to

underrepresented communities, and nearly 10% identified as people with disabilities. This diversity highlights the importance of broadening democratic participation and ensuring that those typically excluded from decision-making processes have a voice in shaping EU policies. Furthermore, the survey saw strong participation from younger age groups, underscoring the need to integrate the perspectives of younger generations into EU policy discussions.

The consultation addressed four key questions that reveal important insights into how EU citizens and residents perceive their Union and its role in the world. Firstly, when asked how they view the role of the EU in global affairs, participants largely saw the EU as a promoter of democracy, peace, sustainability, and human rights. Some commentators saw the EU even as a beacon of hope in a world of wars. However, there was a strong desire for the EU to play a more proactive role in addressing pressing global challenges such as conflict resolution, climate change, and migration. Respondents felt that the EU's global actions should align more closely with its foundational values, ensuring that these principles guide its external policies. One suggestion was the use of digital tools, like AI and the internet. But some expressed concerns about the danger of online voting on sensitive issues

Secondly, regarding the democracy instruments available to them in the EU, participants were generally aware of some democratic tools, such as the European Parliament Elections and the European Citizens' Initiative but expressed a lack of familiarity with others. This points to a need for greater visibility and accessibility of democratic mechanisms, suggesting that more citizens would engage in decision-making processes if these instruments were made more prominent and accessible.

When asked which values they associate with the EU, respondents overwhelmingly identified democracy, human rights, peace, and sustainability as core principles. These values were strongly linked with the EU's mission, with a notable shift towards environmental concerns and climate action when asked about the Union's current daily actions and needs for further future action. Additionally, values like solidarity, justice, participation, and equality were seen as essential components of the EU's identity. However, one commentator was concerned about decreasing democratic values in certain member states, like Hungary. Respondents highlighted a desire for the EU to place greater emphasis on social justice, inclusivity, and participatory democracy, showing that citizens wish to feel more connected to EU decision-making processes. These findings demonstrate a clear gap between the ideals of the EU's foundational principles and the everyday experiences of its residents.

Lastly, participants were clear in their calls for the EU to carry these values into the world. They emphasised the need for the EU to promote democracy, human rights, and sustainability globally while ensuring that its actions remain consistent with these principles. There was a strong desire for the EU to lead by example in fostering participatory democracy not only within its borders but also in shaping global governance systems. Still, some commented that they feel that the EU acts like a "self-righteous preacher" towards other countries, hindering their progress. Respondents expressed hope that the EU could bridge the democratic gap in global institutions, ensuring that voices from all corners of the world are heard and represented.

The results from this consultation further emphasise the potential of the EU's participatory mechanisms to drive democratic engagement at both regional and global levels. The EU has pioneered several innovative tools for citizen involvement in decision-making, such as the European Citizens' Initiative and the Conference on the Future of Europe, which empower citizens (though not residents without citizenship in a member state) to influence EU policies directly. However, there is a significant opportunity to expand and enhance these mechanisms to ensure greater accessibility and representation. Respondents of this survey overwhelmingly view the EU's participatory tools as a model for global governance, suggesting that the Union's experience could help address the democratic deficit in institutions like the UN and the WTO.



This consultation is not an end, but a beginning. The call to action is clear: the EU must take bold steps to champion democratic participation at the global level, leveraging its unique tools to foster a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable system of global governance. The EU has an opportunity to lead by example, not only through its policies but by ensuring that the voices of its citizens—and those of the world—are central in shaping the future of international relations. It is time for the EU to rise to this challenge and fulfil its responsibility as a global leader in participatory democracy.

ANNEX.1

Co-designed Proposal Recommendations

14 proposals were submitted to the Consul platform by participants themselves, to which a total of 15 votes were given. Moreover, in the comment sections, 105 ideas were posted, to which a total of 167 votes were given.

Here below, the recommendations submitted by the Consultations' participants presented as categorised by topical focuses.

1. Citizen Participation and Direct Democracy

Proposal 1.1: EU Youth should take part in policy-making processes

(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)

More and more young people are getting involved in socio-political activism and NGOs. The reason is that youth would like to have a say in how to shape their future. However, EU policy making still is not fully inclusive for young people to actually voice their concerns or recommendations, despite the several participation-opportunities EU offers for them. With increasing transnational opportunities and the use of globalised information technology, young people are the most affected by and engaged in what is going on in the world. All present global challenges will affect our future lives and opportunities, that is why youths, who will have to deal with the consequences of today's policymaking, must have the opportunity to take part in how external policies are designed and implemented. We would like to propose that in every decision-making process of major international agreements should be present at least one youth representative body. Only this way youth's voice can have a major impact on the decisions shaping the world's future, giving voice to their priorities and aspirations.

Proposal 1.2: EU's tools for citizen participation

(no votes)

Please provide more information about the EU's tools for citizen participation. There is a general feeling that the EU is very distant from its citizens. We can participate through initiatives and by expressing our opinions, but the EU's tools are not well-known. It is necessary to find ways to reach citizens more effectively and to inform them about these tools, as well as about EU initiatives and policies, so that we, as citizens, feel closer to the EU.

Proposal 1.3: Encourage the use of participatory budgets

(no votes)

The use of participatory budgets is an excellent tool to make more democratic choices, including those concerning foreign policy. Through more active participation, citizens will feel empowered and can see an actual impact on final decisions. In this way, ultimately, greater trust in the institutions could also be achieved, which now seems to be increasingly falling apart.

Comments related to Citizen Participation and Direct Democracy:

- EU should always allow citizens from member states vote on a contentious issue not leaving it to the few diplomats who actually represent their own or the few people in government. **(votes in favour: 27, against: 0)**
- There should be an expansion of direct public voting on policy issues. This could take the form of deliberative online consultations with thousands of participants or even create a new house of the European Parliament where every eligible EU voter can vote directly on issues. **(votes in favour: 19, against: 2)**

- Successfully requesting a referendum should not cost more money and signatures than founding a (one-issue) party and then participating an election. **(no votes)**
- It is why we must develop the system of vote and choose the system called Majority Judgement (Jugement Majoritaire) which use the intelligent collective of everyone. The new word for that is "Preferendum". **(no votes)**
- Full initiative rights (direct citizen lawmaking) are needed at every level of governance, with well-designed informational and deliberative processes, and within constitutional guardrails to protect minority and civil rights. **(no votes)**
- I want European citizens' initiative referendum. **(no votes)**

2. EU Governance and Accountability

Proposal 2.1: Holding the EU Accountable to Its Promises of Human Rights, Peace, and Justice! **(votes in favour: 2, against: 0)**

As a global leader, the EU's stated commitment to human rights, peace, and inclusivity should be unwavering. However, to align its actions with its ideals, concrete steps must be taken to address the disconnect between policy and practice. My proposal calls for: Stronger Implementation of Human Rights Protections: The EU must go beyond rhetoric and enforce frameworks like CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention across all member states. Many EU countries fall short in supporting victims of gender-based violence, providing inadequate legal action against perpetrators and failing to protect women and children. To make the EU's commitment to human rights credible, EU-led enforcement mechanisms should ensure compliance, with audits and consequences for non-compliance (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2022). Child protection remains inconsistent across member states. The EU should implement comprehensive child protection standards that ensure the safety and well-being of all children, especially asylum-seeking minors facing high-risk detention conditions. Humane Migration Policies: Current EU migration policies, including the Migration Pact and GEAS reform, prioritize border security over human rights, often resulting in forced pushbacks, dangerous detention conditions, and blocked access to asylum procedures (Amnesty International, 2023). The EU should shift focus to safe, legal migration pathways and prioritize humane treatment in line with the Refugee Convention. Inclusive Protections for LGBTQI+ Individuals and People with Disabilities: LGBTQI+ individuals and people with disabilities face significant discrimination across many member states. The EU must enforce non-discriminatory practices, create accessible services, and ensure the safety of LGBTQI+ asylum seekers, especially those fleeing persecution from countries deemed "safe" (ILGA Europe, 2023). Disability rights also need urgent attention, as accessible infrastructure and equitable employment opportunities remain insufficient throughout the EU (European Disability Forum, 2023). Integrity in Peace and Anti-Corruption Efforts: The EU's role in peace is undermined by its own arms exports to conflict zones, which contradicts its commitments to stability and human rights. The EU must enforce restrictions on arms sales and take a firm stance against corruption within member states, particularly in cases where political interests override public accountability (Transparency International, 2023). Reducing Socioeconomic Inequality: The EU's trade agreements and development aid often benefit wealthier economies more than vulnerable populations, deepening global inequality. The EU must adopt policies that genuinely promote local growth, rather than perpetuating dependency and exploitation, especially in low-income regions (Oxfam, 2023). These measures, among many others that are needed, would close the huge gap between the EU's ideals and its practices, and make it a little more worthy of the power it holds in the areas of human rights, justice and integrity. Without real accountability, the EU risks failing to protect the very values it claims to uphold, making life harder than it has to be for us citizens. Without decisive action and accountability, the EU continues to undermine its credibility on the global stage, having already lost

the trust of countless citizens and those it claims to protect. This is a call for real change, not tomorrow but today. We need the EU to turn its commitments into concrete, enforceable actions that prioritize human rights, justice, and integrity. Only by acting now can the EU hope to restore trust, stand by its values, and truly lead by example in creating a fairer, more inclusive world.³

Proposal 2.2: New constitutional provisions for the EU! **(no votes)**

A new EU constitution has to empower citizens, ensure transparency, and strengthen Europe while respecting the self-determination of its member states. Let's build a democratic union that works for everyone.

- a) Empowering Citizens: A new EU constitution will prioritize direct citizen involvement in decision-making, giving people across Europe a stronger voice in shaping their future.
- b) Ensuring Transparency: By creating clear, accessible rules and governance structures, a new constitution will eliminate bureaucratic opacity and rebuild trust in the EU's institutions.
- c) Strengthening Unity: A modernized EU framework will enable member states to collaborate effectively on global challenges, such as climate change and security, while maintaining their sovereignty.
- d) Respecting Diversity: The constitution will safeguard the unique cultures, traditions, and self-determination of each member state, ensuring that integration doesn't come at the cost of identity.
- e) Building a Democratic Future: A renewed commitment to democracy through the constitution will make the EU more accountable, fair, and adaptable to future needs, ensuring it works for everyone.
- f) Ukraine: To effectively support Ukraine's accession and integration, the EU needs clear and transparent processes that a modern constitution can establish, reducing bureaucratic delays and inefficiencies.

Comments related to EU Governance and Accountability:

- More accountability for European MPs and the Parliament should be able to draft laws, not just the Commission. Make it more representative and actually do something about illegal immigration and the extreme parties destabilising member state politics would disappear overnight. Brexit would have never happened. **(no votes)**
- The EU would have to be made democratic, and the EU Parliament would have to be the ultimately deciding body, not the government representatives of the countries. **(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)**
- We need a stronger EU. A binding EU constitution, EU armed forces, a central government that, like in Germany, is only allowed to make higher-level decisions, things like education remained state or state affairs. **(no votes)**
- The citizen vote is not enough. We must counteract the pressures exerted by powerful groups that no one has voted for. **(no votes)**
- It is necessary to do more Europe. Strengthen Democracy. Advance alliances outside the European Union. Create the conditions for the entry of immigration, which will be necessary in the coming decades. **(no votes)**

³ [Sources: European Institute for Gender Equality (2022). *Annual Report on Gender Equality in the EU*. Available at eige.europa.eu. Amnesty International (2023). *Europe's Border Policies: Violations of Asylum Seekers' Rights*. Available at [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org). ILGA Europe (2023). *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of LGBTQI People in Europe*. Available at ilga-europe.org. European Disability Forum (2023). *Disability Rights in the EU: Current State and Future Needs*. Available at edf-feph.org. Transparency International (2023). *Corruption Perceptions Index 2023*. Available at [transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org). Oxfam (2023). *EU Trade and Development Policy Report: Addressing Global Inequality*. Available at [oxfam.org](https://www.oxfam.org).]

- As I'm a resident of the United Kingdom (UK) which, thankfully, has left the European Union, I'm not sure what to add here. However, it would be really great if the EU was run more democratically and did what the citizens of its Member States want it to do, rather than doing the direct opposite of this. **(votes in favour: 0, against: 1)**

3. Transparency and Information

Comments related to Transparency and Information:

- We should raise awareness of the mechanisms of the European Union to try to make citizens feel more involved and deal with issues that are also relevant to everyday life. **(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)**
- The so-called "social"-media (GAFA, BATX ...) pose a major problem to democracy worldwide and should be subject to global competition rules and come partly under public control. **(no votes)**

4. Non-EU Citizens and Minority Participation

Proposal 4.1: Inclusive Engaged Governance Program

(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)

My proposal is to establish the "Inclusive Engaged Governance Program" for non-EU citizens living in Europe, designed to enhance their participation in decision-making processes at both local and EU levels. This program would draw inspiration from existing discussions on voting rights for nationals of non-EU states, aiming to extend opportunities for civic engagement beyond traditional citizenship. By actively involving non-EU citizens in governance and policy development, the Inclusive Engaged Governance Program would promote a more inclusive democracy and ensure that the voices of all residents contribute to shaping the future of Europe. This aligns with the principles of fairness and representation outlined in the discussions on voting rights for non-EU nationals, recognizing the important role they play in European society. The European Union does not have a formalized structure specifically for consulting non-EU citizens as a distinct group in its policymaking processes. However, there are mechanisms in place that indirectly include non-EU residents, especially in relation to local governance and civil society engagement. The EU could facilitate platforms for non-EU citizens to engage in public consultations and discussions on relevant EU policies, ensuring their perspectives are considered in decision-making processes.

Proposal 4.2: Ethnic and national minority consultative body

(no votes)

I would suggest to establish permanent consultative body by EU Parliament or EU Commission consisting of elected representatives of ethnic and national minorities from EU member-states (with the number of representatives allotted to each country based on the portion of the total EU minority population, living in each member-state, representing ethnic, national and linguistic minorities both autochthone and immigrant ones, essentially, this means that people whose ethnic and linguistic affiliation do not much could have two votes), who could voice their concerns with EU Parliament preparing yearly report on the state of the Union in the field of minority rights and action plan, that is to be implemented by the EU Commission during next year or number of years. This could not only strengthen link between EU residents and EU institutions, but make EU Commission indirectly more accountable as well, as its action or inaction could be seen to everyone, thus voters could have more interest in participating in EU election.

Comments Topic Non-EU Citizens and Minority Participation:

- Expanding voting rights in the European Union to allow all EU residents, including non-citizens, to vote in EU elections could be a significant step toward strengthening democratic participation and representation. Currently, EU citizens living in a member state other than their own can vote in European Parliament elections in their country of residence, but non-EU residents, even if they have long-term residency or deep ties to the community, are excluded. **(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)**

5. Climate and Environmental Action

Proposal 5.1: EU Citizens' and Residents' participation in transnational climate governance (votes in favour: 2, against: 0)

Citizen participation strengthens trust in democratic processes and ensures that climate policies reflect the needs and priorities of those most affected by climate change. Successful democracies build on inclusive conversations, and this is why it is essential that everyone, especially the traditionally underrepresented groups, have a say in the policymaking of such an important issues as climate change. It is not only citizens of the EU, but also residents, newcomers, and everyone living in the region that have the right to express their perspective. This is why we would like to propose the organisation of transnational Citizens' Panels, particularly engaging youth, indigenous groups, and those from climate-vulnerable countries. Through this participatory mechanism, the EU would enable the creation of a platform/space that allows everyone living within the EU to propose and shape climate solutions that the EU can pitch on the international stage. It is citizens and residents of the Union directly participating in climate decision making and including what they consider as the most urgent points in the climate diplomacy agenda of EU foreign policy.

Comments related to Climate and Environmental Action:

- Climate change and crisis must be dealt with by the EU. **(no votes)**
- EU must promote clean energy. **(no votes)**
- Stop the human induced climate change which was mostly caused by us. China is always blamed for its emissions, but there live four times more people. **(no votes)**

6. Global Cooperation and Human Rights

Proposal 6.1: Unconditional Basic Income and Direct Democracy for all (votes in favour: 5, against: 0)

The EU should introduce an Unconditional and Universal Basic Income for all. It should be accompanied by direct democracy so everybody can regularly vote about the UBI and its concrete amount. This should be a human right and thus be expanded world-wide as fast as possible. It has to cover the basic needs so nobody would have to fear starvation or homelessness. It has to be financed amongst others by taxation of the very wealthy and of emissions and other activity that destroy the planet's live-supporting equilibrium.

Proposal 6.2: European Union and its transnational participatory democracy (votes in favour: 2, against: 0)

The EU has a global responsibility to foster transnational participatory democracy. What characterises the European Union and sets it apart from other transnational institutions are the advanced set of participatory tools that its citizens can use to contribute to decision-making. Just some examples are: European Citizens' Initiatives, European Citizens' Panels, direct election of representatives. Through

participatory tools, EU citizens can see their views included in policy-making processes. Their use ensures representation and counters the rise of mistrust in transnational institutions' commitment to democracy. We call on the EU to co-operate with CSOs and IOs beyond EU borders to apply such tools in other transnational contexts.

Proposal 6.3: EU countries to push for reform at UN level

(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)

EU countries as a group including the EU delegation should push for reform at the UN level and to include more participatory tools. There should be more possibilities to participate.

Proposal 6.4: Global cooperation beyond the States

(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)

The EU is the world's largest example of transnational cooperation. Cooperation cannot, however, stop at the negotiation between states alone, both within its borders and in its relations with the rest of the world. It is necessary that the communities and representatives of civil society are also included in the dialogue. This is particularly important in finding answers to issues such as climate change, which require the commitment and involvement of each of us.

Comments related to Global Cooperation and Human Rights:

- A continuous total defence of human rights is needed. (no votes)
- The role of the European Union is to protect the citizens, to have peace and to reduce the number of wars. **(no votes)**
- Peace and economic justice must be the global goals of the EU. **(no votes)**

7. Economic and Technology Policies

Comments related to Economic and Technology Policies:

- Digital economy must be addressed by the EU. **(no votes)**
- I believe the role of the EU to the role can make an impact. But we need stronger policies and more economic power. **(no votes)**

8. Peace and Security

Comments related to Peace and Security:

- The EU would have to live up to its claim of being a peace project instead of an appendage of US interest politics. This also means taking eastern (Russian) security interests seriously. **(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)**
- Solutions to the dependence of the EU's energy supply on the autocratic regime must be found. Although Russian energy supply is refused, Azerbaijan transfers Russian gas to Europe and by giving the obtained investment to Russia, it ensures the development of the aggressor Russia. If the EU completely refuses this, it will have increased its influence! **(no votes)**
- For a stronger EU institution, it should increase pressure on non-democratic countries and increase aid to Ukraine in order to collapse Russia, which is a threat to world democracy. Russia, the successor of the former USSR, has very strong resources, it is true that sanctions have been imposed on Russia, but it was possible to deliver its hydrocarbon products indirectly to Europe and other countries through the pipelines of Azerbaijan and other countries. Even if these facts are revealed, turning a blind eye to them causes Russia to evade

sanctions at least a little. For the sake of a future strong EU, Ukraine should be spared comprehensive help! **(no votes)**

9. EU Identity and Values

Proposal 9.1: How can nationalism work for the unity of the EU?

(no votes)

Ideological nationalism is rising in most of the EU countries and threatens the unity of the Union. Primarily populist parties use it as a political instrument in their fight for power. Such parties present the European Union as a danger to national identity. According to Eurosceptical politicians, the EU imposes European identity instead. I argue that those identities not only can coexist, but they can exacerbate each other. There is a need for a proper policy of the EU to achieve such an effect. Instead of rejecting nationalism in general, the EU should oppose only its ideological forms that lead to xenophobia and hostility toward other nations. At the same time, the EU policy should protect and support member states' efforts to maintain and preserve their uniqueness and national cultural identity, which is threatened not by European integration but by inevitable globalization.

Comments related to EU Identity and Values:

- In order for the EU to be strong, first of all, states such as Hungary and Slovakia should be fully determined, or they should be removed from the union. As long as aggressive Russia exists, there will be no development! The process in Georgia and the choice of Moldova must be decisive. **(no votes)**

10. EU Foreign Policy

Proposal 10.1: Neutral Europe

(no votes)

Can Europe please be neutral like Swiss? I do not want to be parted in conflicts, which are not ours. I do not want to have atomic weapons in my country from other nations. I just want to be neutral und have freedom. Thanks

Comments related to EU Foreign Policy:

- The union must not interfere in the affairs of other countries. **(votes in favour: 0, against: 1)**
- The European Union is a reputable institution and is positive towards the opinions of its member countries. However, there are authoritarian and non-democratic members represented in this institution, a mechanism of influence should be found for them (that is, the punishment mechanism of the heads of that country). Even though independence was achieved in Azerbaijan, where I live, it did not last a year, the KGB general H. Aliyev seized power and the country has been ruled by a dictatorial regime for 30 years. The underground and surface resources produced in the country are looted, and even the EU and PACE they were also able to capture the deputies. (spawn diplomacy and other corrupt acts) You know that there are more than 300 political prisoners in our country at the moment. In short, this regime expresses the position of the Russian side, there is no legal rule. Even though all this is known, sanctions are applied very mildly to Azerbaijan. **(votes in favour: 1, against: 0)**